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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 45 of the First Extraordinary Session  
By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to name a certain section of State Highway 75 in Washington County in honor of Mr. John B. Deakins, Sr.

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly has seen fit to name certain public byways in honor of outstanding public servants whose efforts have redounded to the great benefit of all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, John B. Deakins, Sr., has generously given of himself throughout his life for the betterment and prosperity of the citizens of Washington County; and

WHEREAS, his illustrious career in public service began in 1954 when he was elected Sheriff of Washington County; he was subsequently re-elected in 1956 and served with distinction in that important post; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Deakins is committed to quality education and ably served a six-year term on the Washington County School Board, serving astutely as Chairman for three years; he is credited as being the driving force behind the consolidation of the county's high schools; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Deakins was also elected to a six-year term as Washington County Magistrate-at-Large and served his constituents with acumen and alacrity. He was also appointed to serve on the State Agriculture Commission by Governor Winfield Dunn during this time period; and

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WHEREAS, in 1982, he was appointed by the Washington County Commission as Highway Superintendent and was subsequently re-appointed in 1984 and 1988. During his meritorious tenure as highway superintendent, Mr. Deakins implemented numerous innovative programs, including a personnel policy, pay scale and workers' compensation and he improved working conditions by acquiring better, safer equipment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Deakins' outstanding public service distinguished him as one of the best and most highly respected highway superintendents in the state; he served as regional president and state president of the Tennessee County Highway Officials and in 1998, he was appointed by the Tennessee County Highway Officials to serve on the Qualification Board to certify highway superintendents for election; and

WHEREAS, despite his extensive public service, Mr. Deakins has continued farming and operates numerous family ventures including, John B. Deakins & Son Constructions Company, Deakins Ready Mix and Deakins Enterprises, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, he is actively involved in several community activities and is a member of the former Sulphur Springs Community Club and Sulphur Springs Ruritan; and

WHEREAS, he is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife of 51 years, Joanne, their children, Linda, John, Jr. and Deborah; their sons-in-law and daughter-in-law, Lt. Col. Lloyd Sherfey and Dale Mason and Teresa Deakins; and their grandchildren, Allison and Catherine Sherfey, Suzanne and John B. Deakins III and Helen Mason; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Deakins evinces his devout religious faith as a lifetime member of the Sulphur Springs United Methodist Church, where he has served as trustee and as a member of the administrative board; and

WHEREAS, the leaders and citizens of Washington County and the members of this General Assembly are grateful to Mr. Deakins for his many selfless contributions to Washington County and to this state, and he should be appropriately honored for his devotion and meritorious public service; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Commission has expressed a desire for a certain segment of State Highway 75 to be named in Mr. Deakins' honor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the section of State Highway 75 in Washington County from its intersection with Hugh Cox Road to its intersection with State Highway 81 North, is hereby designated as the "John B. Deakins, Sr. Highway" in honor of his illustrious service to his fellow Washington Countians and Tennesseans and his commitment to his family, friends and community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is hereby directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such highway as the "John B. Deakins, Sr. Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.